

## **OFFICE OF THE STAFF JUDGE ADVOCATE MOBILIZATION READINESS**

1. It is very important that each of you as Air Force Reserve members have your affairs in order so that you and your loved ones will be prepared in case of mobilization. Spending a little time now ensuring your affairs are in order can save you a great deal of time and money later. More importantly, you can ensure that your loved ones are adequately provided for and they don't have the added stress of wondering what will happen to them upon your mobilization.
2. The Individual Reserve Guide provides a list of the more common matters you should consider. Recommend you review these on at least an annual basis, and more often as significant events occur in your life. A review is also important to ensure that "external" changes, such as new laws affecting estate planning, powers of attorney, reemployment rights, and other topics, have not made your previous plans obsolete.
3. It would be wise to schedule an appointment with the installation legal office or with your personal attorney to discuss your legal needs especially as they relate to wills, powers of attorney, and related documents. As a reservist in an inactive status, you are entitled to mission-related legal assistance from Air Force legal offices for wills and powers of attorney. If you enter a federal active duty status, you (and certain family members) are authorized the full range of legal assistance.
4. A general power of attorney allows the named person to handle all of your affairs in your absence in whatever fashion they desire (including full access to all banking accounts). *This is a very powerful document; you should consider this at length before granting a general power of attorney.* A special power of attorney grants only the power necessary to complete specific tasks. One example of this is a power of attorney to empower the person you have named as your family member caregiver, in your absence, the authority to authorize emergency medical care for your minor family members.
5. Don't delay! These needs should be taken care of now so that if you are mobilized, you won't have to worry about these issues or make hasty decisions. Even if you are never mobilized, you will be wise to ensure your estate plan and any other legal matters are current.
6. You can find additional legal assistance on such issues as deployment, powers of attorney, reemployment rights, and a host of other areas, on ARPC's web site at <http://arpc.afrc.af.mil/ja/legasst.htm>.
7. Should you have any immediate questions, please contact the ARPC legal office:

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